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PROGRESS REPORT

FIXED DISTANCE RADAR DEPLOYMENT OF SURVIVAL KIT

The effort over the past three months has consisted of establishing definition of goals with our vendor and additional pursuit to remedy problem areas encountered in prior testing. Our vendor stated they are not capable of designing an antenna that is structurally adequate and therefore we have assumed that task. We will purchase the electronic package and provide the antenna interface, installation testing etc.

A new antenna has been designed that should solve our structural problems encountered in wind blast. We felt that some of the erratic performance encountered in the tests was due to the structural inadequacy of the antenna. An engineering prototype of the new design is complete and is presently starting electronic testing to ascertain its functional integrity and reliability. Upon completion of those tests it will then be subjected to windblast testing.

Concurrently with the above tests, prototype hardware for deploying the antenna after parachute opening will be fabricated and tested.

Any further system tests should be accomplished using a different survival kit. The present kit is not configured to be ballistically deployed and was reworked to do a feasibility study only. We recommend that a new kit be obtained G. F. E., or that procurement of one direct from the vendor be authorized to perform all further system testing. It is recommended that no further jumps be attempted until the system can be wrung out as components as well as a total package. Additional erratic system

results at this time would tend to cloud the issue and the problem areas would be so buried in a system that could not be easily isolated. Also, any unrelated hardware failures would further compound them.

We had a meeting (May 30, 1972) with [redacted] and his associates to discuss the approach to this problem and its continued feasibility.

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[redacted] and has excellent credentials for evaluation of this matter.

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Also, we have contacted a Company in [redacted] in regards to this type device for deployment of the kit. Even though they have considerable experience in the development and manufacture of radar units and antennas, they have not made the fixed distance type. However, they would be glad to undertake a development program.

For the next few weeks we will continue our present course and then we would like to have a meeting with your people to discuss this matter in more detail.